



## 15 Kid Friendly Organizing Tips:

### Beth Johnson; Can Do Organizing & More

1. **As much as possible, stick to a routine.** Verbalize the steps of your morning and evening routines. Bedtime routines are important too as they pave a smoother path to sleep.
2. **Post a checklist.** Place it on the bathroom mirror or bedroom wall as a reminder of steps to take during morning and evening routines. Like many adults, children may enjoy checking off the tasks as they accomplish them.
3. **Prepare ahead.** Help children lay out their clothes and pack lunches and backpacks the night before.
4. **Package healthy snack foods.** Place them in small servings and place them in a bowl or drawer where children can help themselves (when given permission). Do the same with refrigerated items ... stock a plastic mixing bowl with yogurt tubes, string cheese, snack sized baggies of fresh fruit, etc. Involve the kids in choosing the variety ... then explain that these are their “go to” items for quick breakfasts or after-school snacks.
5. **Time Management.** To help young children manage their time, purchase analog wall clocks and label them with photos or clipart images that denote specific times for specific tasks. For instance, the image of a school bus near the number 2 can help a child see how soon they’ll need to leave for the bus stop.
6. **Use a wall calendar to keep track of practices, play-dates and other activities.** The calendar will help children look ahead and prepare for what’s happening later in the week.
7. **Use different colored folders or magazine files for each child.** This helps to corral child specific important papers, permission slips, party invitations, etc. Help children learn where to put their important papers and where to find them later. Parents should look through the folders weekly so important deadlines aren’t missed :)
8. **Create a homework bin.** A drawer or rolling cart can contain items routinely needed to accomplish homework; such as paper, pencils, markers, scissors, rulers, erasers, index cards, etc.
9. **Teach children how to store “like things” together.** All toys like to “be with their friends!” Help them remember to put things back after using them, so “we can find them when we’re ready to play again.”
10. **Provide clearly labelled toy and clothing storage solutions.** Labelling with photos or clipart images and descriptive words while children are young and learning to read.
11. **Use shoe bags hung on doors to store other items.** They are not just shoes, great for Barbies, small stuffed animals, hats and gloves, and so much more. If bathroom counter or storage space is limited, a shoe bag on the door can capture everyone’s toothbrush and paste, comb, brush, etc. Label each pouch with child’s name or the category of items to be stored within (hair, teeth, face care).
12. **Reduce toy inventory.** Instead of always buying new toys to keep the kids entertained, consider rotating their toys. Every 3-4 months, pack away several lesser-used sets and replace them with sets that had been stored away.

13. **“Toy Jail”**. If getting toys picked up is a challenge at your house, check out the idea of “Toy Jail” at this savvy mom’s website: <https://thechicsite.com/2014/06/12/get-toddler-clean-up/>
14. **Keep specific tasks as simple as possible!** If your child’s job is to empty the cat litter box daily, have the litter scoop, trash bags, fresh litter, and a whisk broom and dust pan all located within reach of the litter box.
15. **Make a family game out of clean up tasks.** Play music and dance along while tidying, write tasks on index cards and team up to turn a card and complete the task, OR pretend to be “elves” and quietly accomplish a task to “surprise” another family member.